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District of Arizona*

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FELON SENTENCED TO 188 MONTHS IN PRISON AFTER ARREST WITH A GUN

PHOENIX – Paul K. Charlton, U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona, and Lester D. Martz, Special Agent-in-Charge for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, announced that on November 30, 2004, Joshua Dowling, DOB 7/31/81, of Phoenix was sentenced to 188 months in prison for two felony counts of Felon in Possession of a Firearm in violation of the Armed Career Criminal Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(1) and 924(e), by federal district court Judge David G. Campbell in Phoenix.

Dowling pleaded guilty in October 2004. Dowling admitted that in February 2004, he was found hiding in a trash can near a residence he had just burglarized. Dowling's loaded .45 caliber semiautomatic handgun was found by Phoenix Police Department officers in the burglary victim's backyard.

Dowling has multiple prior felony convictions including Attempted Aggravated Assault Against a Police Officer; two counts of Burglary in the Second Degree; and Aggravated Assault. Because he has at least three separate prior felony convictions for crimes of violence, Dowling was subject to sentencing under the Armed Career Criminal Act, 18 U.S.C. § 924(e).

Dowling's sentence is a success for ATF's Project ARROW, "Apprehend Released Repeat Offenders with Weapons." ATF's Project ARROW targets individuals who have multiple prior felony convictions for crimes of violence and a known propensity for using and/or carrying weapons. Project ARROW is an ATF-led initiative supported by the Phoenix Police Department through surveillance and arrest support and the U.S. Attorney's Office through prosecutorial support as part of the Arizona Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative.

"This type of cooperation among federal and local authorities can bring serious federal penalties to bear on convicted felons who chose to re-arm themselves and threaten our community by continuing to commit crimes of violence," said U.S. Attorney Paul Charlton.

The investigation leading to this conviction was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Phoenix Police Department. The prosecution in this case was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Frederick A. Battista.

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